



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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Ref: EPR-N

April 14, 2008

Brian Ferebee  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
8236 Federal Building  
125 South State Street, Utah 84138  
Ogden, UT 84401

Re: West Bear Vegetation Management Project  
DSEIS CEQ 20080084

Dear Mr. Ferebee:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the West Bear Vegetation Management Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). Our comments are provided in accordance with our authorities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(C) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609. On March 5, 2007, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for West Bear Vegetation Management Project final EIS and its approval of Alternative 2 for the vegetative management project. Two appeals were received on this decision and the USFS elected to withdraw its decision. After reviewing the West Bear Vegetation Management Project, the USFS determined that it would issue a DSEIS that provided additional analysis of soils and some specific wildlife issues.

EPA's review of the additional information in the DSEIS concludes that the additional information provided on soil erosion and compaction responds to the concerns outlined in our December 6, 2005 letter in response to the initial DEIS. We are pleased with the outcome.

Based on the procedures the EPA uses to evaluate the adequacy of the information and the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives in an EIS, EPA rates this DSEIS as LO-1 (Lack of Objections – Adequate). An "LO" signifies that EPA's review of the DSEIS has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the preferred alternative. A "1" rating signifies that the DEIS adequately sets forth the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project; no further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information. A copy of EPA's rating criteria is enclosed.

These comments are intended to help ensure a comprehensive assessment of the project's environmental impacts, adequate public disclosure and an informed decision-making process for alternative selection. If you would like to discuss our comments, please feel free to contact me or the lead reviewer for this project, Dick Clark, at (303) 312-6748.

Sincerely,

/s/ Deborah Lebow Aal  
for Larry Svoboda  
Director, NEPA Program  
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

cc: Larry Johnson, Evanston Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest

